



Columbia County Central Laboratory P.O.
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Effective 6-1-04

General Testing Information

The Laboratory is equipped to analyze water samples for a variety of minerals. Most well water taste and odor problems are caused by iron and/or manganese. Mineral and other testing costs are:

Minerals	= \$5.00 each
Ammonia	= \$5.00
Fecal Bacteria	= \$40.00
Total Coliform Bacteria	= \$25.00
BOD	= \$30.00
Dissolved Oxygen	= \$5.00

1. Pay for and receive a bottle at the Central Laboratory (or Waterworks Administration Office if there is no one available in the Lab).
2. Collect the sample without letting anything but the well water touch the inside of the bottle. Detailed sample collection instructions are included with the sample bottle.
3. Complete the requested label information and affix the label to sample container:
4. Return the sample to the Central Lab (THE SAME DAY IT IS COLLECTED IF IT IS A BACTERIA SAMPLE). The lab accepts samples Monday – Wednesday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Thursday 8 Am – 12PM. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAYS or THE DAY BEFORE A COUNTY HOLIDAY.**
5. Complete the shaded portion of the form.

The analysis takes 1 – 5 days depending on the test. Laboratory personnel will mail the results to the customer. If the customer needs the results immediately, he or she may call, or make arrangements with laboratory personnel to pick up the letter.

If the sample tests **positive** for Total Coliforms, the well will have to be retested. **The lab cannot give the customer a letter saying the well is OK until a retest is negative.** For the retest, the customer may pick up another bottle at the laboratory. The lab will perform one free retest.

Also, if the sample tests positive, the County recommends that the customer disinfect the well with

chlorine bleach before collecting another sample. There is detailed information on the disinfection procedure at the lab, and the customer may get a copy when he picks up the retest bottle.